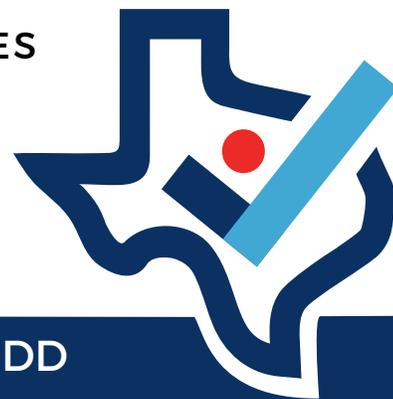


House Bill (HB) 5146

Rep. John Raney



Building Better Futures Program for Students with IDD

HB 5146 would establish the Building Better Futures Program, to help provide funding for Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across institutions of higher education in Texas. These programs would provide educational and occupational skills training opportunities and support services to students with IDD in an inclusive and age-appropriate environment. The bill lists eligibility criteria for institutions of higher education and for participating students.



The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 allowed federal assistance to be used for approved CTP programs. These are designed for postsecondary students with IDD to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction in order to prepare for employment.



Data show CTP programs to be effective at leading graduates to meaningful employment and improved economic self-sufficiency. Despite this, Texas trails other states in the number of approved four-year CTP programs, with just four. Pennsylvania has 12, and there are 21 in Florida.



Supporters of the bill include The Arc of Texas, National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter, Texas Association of Goodwills, the Texas Council of Community Centers, Texas Parent to Parent, and United Ways of Texas.

“By providing access to meaningful, postsecondary education and occupational skills for students with intellectual disabilities, increased employment opportunities and improved economic self-sufficiency can be achieved.”

Rep. John Raney

